



# **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### **MEDIA ALERT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 29, 2008**

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## **HFD HOLDS REUNION WITH HOBBY AIRPORT CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVOR**

**Saturday, March 1, 2008 @ William P. Hobby Airport Gate 21 \***

**WHAT:** HFD EMS will hold a reunion with a cardiac arrest survivor who was resuscitated last Sunday. He was assisted by bystanders with a public access defibrillator located several feet from his collapse and CPR before HFD arrived and provided further care.

**WHEN :** 8:00 a.m., Saturday, March 1, 2008

\*Media will need to arrive by 7:45 a.m. and park in the public parking garage; live trucks park at the Rent Car road live shot area and call the Houston Airport system media hotline number 281.233-1234 to obtain clearance.

**WHERE:** William P. Hobby Airport Gate 21

**DETAILS:** Richard Teeters thought he was having indigestion as he waited to board a plane at Hobby Airport , Gate 21, last Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Fellow travelers saw Teeters looking pale and suddenly slump in his chair. They called for help and several passengers awaiting to board a plane who happened to be paramedics and physicians, rushed to his side and determined that he was pulseless. The bystanders called

9-1-1, moved him to the floor, applied one of Hobby Airport 's Public Access defibrillators and administered CPR. Airport staff, including Southwest Airlines personnel brought oxygen and provided other assistance. The paramedics and doctors on scene administered a shock with the defibrillator, returning Teeters heart back to a normal rhythm and within moments he became responsive and began talking.

HFD members arrived soon thereafter and administered further advanced treatments, along with clot-busting drugs. Teeters called his wife on his cell phone as he was being wheeled into the hospital to let her know he missed his flight. He was transported by HFD to a local hospital where he received follow up care and discharged a few days later. Mr. and Mrs. Teeters are returning home on Saturday morning, departing from Hobby with a special farewell from the HFD members who helped save his life. The bystanders will be contacted by phone to thank them in California , Louisiana , and Missouri .

Houston was one of the first major urban cities to institute a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program placing AEDs in public buildings, under the direction of Dr. David Persse, Director of EMS and Public Health Authority. This program has been successful in saving lives with the strategic placement of AEDs and the quick thinking of good Samaritans as in this case.

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